

December 2010



## *just the* **FACTs**

This fact sheet is provided as a reference to encourage a greater understanding of the various issues related to managing water in South Florida.

### **Accreditation of Broward Portion of East Coast Protective Levee** *Documenting effective flood protection for Federal Emergency Management Agency flood map modernization*

*The East Coast Protective Levee stretches for more than 100 miles from the Homestead area north to the eastern shore of Lake Okeechobee near the St. Lucie Canal. It was constructed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in the early 1950s to retain water in Water Conservation Area wetlands in western Miami-Dade, Broward and Palm Beach counties.*

*After completion of the levee, ownership was transferred to the South Florida Management District, which has actively managed levee operation and maintenance for approximately 60 years. The levee is inspected annually by the Corps and is recognized on current Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) maps as an accredited levee that provides protection from a flood that has a 1 percent chance of happening in any given year.*

*Based on recommendations resulting from recent inspections by the Corps, the District has completed maintenance work on portions of the levee, including construction of gravel-filled ring dikes and removal of vegetation.*

### **Comprehensive levee maintenance and repair by the SFWMD is ongoing, including:**

- Increasing ground inspections of the levee by SFWMD staff
- Installation of instrumentation along the levee to monitor water levels on a continuous basis
- Stockpiling rock in upland areas in case levee conditions change
- Installation of ring dikes as seepage control measures and ongoing maintenance by SFWMD Field Station personnel
- Removal of vegetation for ease of inspection

### **FEMA Flood Map Modernization**

- FEMA is updating existing National Flood Insurance Program maps for publication in digital format using criteria for accreditation specified in Title 44 of the Code of Federal Regulations (44 CFR) Section 65.10. The criteria includes protection from a flood that has a 1 percent chance of happening in any given year plus wind velocity from a category 1 hurricane.
- Broward County has requested that the District, as owner of the levee, provide documentation showing that the Broward portion of the levee (38.3 miles) meets FEMA's criteria for accreditation for its new maps.



[sfwmd.gov](http://sfwmd.gov)

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(more)

### Next Steps

- In January 2011, the District will apply for a FEMA Provisional Accredited Levee (PAL) designation.
  - This will allow two years for District engineers to research and provide documentation required for accreditation.
  - The District's intent with this process is to certify the East Coast Protective Levee for Broward County.
- To confirm their awareness that the SFWMD is taking these steps toward FEMA certification, Broward County and eight communities adjacent to the East Coast Protective Levee will be asked to participate in a letter of agreement. The communities are Weston, Sunrise, Parkland, Coral Springs, Southwest Ranches, Miramar, Tamarac and Pembroke Pines.

More information about FEMA Flood Map Modernization in Broward County is available in these [FAQs](#). Additional information is available from Broward County at [www.broward.org](http://www.broward.org) or from the Federal Emergency Management Agency at [www.FEMA.gov](http://www.FEMA.gov).

### **East Coast Protective Levee**

